



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING



MARIANNE UDOW
DIRECTOR

July 9, 2007

The Honorable Bill Hardiman, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan State Senate
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable Dudley Spade, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Hardiman and Representative Spade:

Sec. 681 of Public Act 345 of 2006 requires the department to report on the implemented policy changes in the distribution of food assistance program benefits to achieve a more uniform flow of food assistance expenditures in any given month and also consider the needs of recipients.

The department has not instituted policy changes in this area at this time due to the near future implementation of our new integrated eligibility system (Bridges). In preparation for Bridges, the food assistance policy staff and field staff did research of what other states are doing, looked at the cost of various strategies, and considered which strategy would be most beneficial for clients, retailers, and department staff.

With the statewide implementation of Bridges, the department plans to expand the issuance period from nine days to about 20 days over the course of the month. This expansion will help retailers provide better service to our clients without causing any undue hardship on clients.

If you have any questions, please contact John Sorbet, Chief Administrative Officer, at 373-7787.

Sincerely,

Marianne Udow

cc: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on DHS
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices
State Budget Director